

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 L-03 INT-08 SCEM-02

TRSE-00 DRC-01 EURE-00 /091 W

----- 109454

P R 121458Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6952

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, XX, PL

SUBJECT: CIVAIR, FUEL SHORTAGE

REF: (A) WARSAW 6124 (NOTAL); (B) STATE 239348

1. SUMMARY. POLES ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT LOT WILL BE FORCED TO STOP WARSAW-NEW YORK FLIGHTS IN NEAR FUTURE DUE TO PREPOTED 84 PERCENT REDUCTION OF JET FUEL SUPPLIES IN NEW YORK FROM CHEVRON. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER CARRIERS SERVING NEW YORK ARE NOT BEIN SUBJECTED TO CUTS ANYWHERE NEAR THIS MAGNITUDE, AND POINT OUT THAT PANAM HAS NOT BEEN LIMITED IN ITS FUEL PURCHASES IN WARSAW. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A DECEMBER 11 MEETING REQUESTED BY POES ON URGENT BASIS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ECONOMIC ADVISOR (CHOWANIEC) TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER GOP IS EXTREMELY WORRIED ABOUT FATE OF LOT (POLISH AIRLINES) TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHTS
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IN LIGHT OF WORD RECEIVED FROM CHEVRON (REF B) THAT JET

FUEL FOR LOT FOR DECEMBER WOULD HAVE TO BE REDUCED TO 16 PERCENT OF LOT'S REQUIREMENTS. CHOWANIEC SAID INQUIRIES HAD SHOWN THAT OTHER AIRLINES SERVING NEW YORK WERE NOT SIMILARLY THREATENED, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS THEY HAVE SUPPLIERS OTHER THAN CHEVRON. HE CITED EXAMPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAK AIRLINES, WHICH DOES UNDERSTOOD WOULD ONLY BE SUBJECT TO REDUCTION OF 25 PERCENT.

3. CHOWANIEC STRESSED THAT POLISH AUTHORITIES WERE NOT APPLYING ANY FUEL REDUCTIONS TO PANAM AT WARSAW. IN FACT IT HAD BEEN NOTED WESTERN CARRIERS, INCLUDING PANAM, IN RECENT DAYS WERE BUYING UP TO 15 PERCENT MORE FUEL AT WARSAW, BUT NO OBJECTION HAD BEEN RAISED. (NOTE: ALTHOUGH ANNOUNCEMENT OF POLISH FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1ST CONTAINED REFERENCE TO PLANS TO PLACE SOME LIMITATIONS ON AIR TRANSPORT WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING MORE ON THIS SCORE TO DATE.) CHOWANIEC SAID POLISH AUTHORITIES ARE EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO AVOID SITUATION IN WHICH LOT COULD NOT CONTINUE ITS TWICE-WEEKLY WARSAW-NEW YORK FLIGHTS. THIS, HE STRESSED, WOULD BE "AN IMPOSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT". HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH STATE DEPARTMENT HAD ASSURED POLISH EMBASSY US REGULATIONS WERE BEING PREPARED, AND THAT POLISH SIDE BELIEVED ALLOCATIONS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE MADE ON EQUITABLE BASIS, THEIR IMMEDIATE CONCERN WAS THAT LOT SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO CUT OFF SERVICE BEFORE SUCH ALLOCATION REGULATIONS WERE WORKED OUT. IN ABSENCE OF SOME RELIEF, LOT BELIEVES SERVICE MIGHT HAVE TO BE CUT IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. CHOWANIEC SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD SUPPLY PROBLEM WAS MAINLY TECHNICAL. IN PAST, LOT HAD BOUGHT "JET -1A" GRADE FUEL, WHEREAS NOW US COMPANIES WERE OFFERING "DOMESTIC" GRADE. LOT HAD COMPARED SAMPLES AND FOUND NO SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCES. CHOWANIEC SAID PERHAPS COMPROMISE SOLUTION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE WHEREIN LOT COULD TAKE SOME DOMESTIC GRADE, OR MIXTURE OF THE TWO. HE ALSO SAID LOT REPRESENTATIVES, LED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PROCUREMENT ZAKRZEWSKI, BEGAN NEGOTIATIONS IN LONDON DECEMBER 11 FOR LOT 1974 FUEL SUPPLIES FROM WESTERN EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS. THEY HOPED TO MEET LONDON CHEVRON REPRESENTATIVE TO DISCUSS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW YORK SUPPLY PROBLEM AS WELL.

5. LOCAL PANAM REPRESENTATIVE CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY DECEMBER 12 THAT PANAM HAS EXPERIENCE NO DIFFICULTIES HERE IN BUYING FUEL. AS MATTERS NOW STAND, PANAM WILL CONTINUE ITS TWICE-WEEKLY WARSAW-NEW YORK FLIGHTS UNTIL AT LEAST APRIL 1974. HOWEVER, AS PART OF CARRIERS OVERALL CONSOLIDATION AND REDUCTION OF SERVICE IN EUROPE

CAUSED BY FUEL SHORTAGES, LONDON SOON WILL BE ELIMINATED
AS INTERMEDIATE STOP AND A NEW WARSAW-COPENHAGEN-AMSTERDAY-
NEW YORK ROUTE WILL BE FLOWN INSTEAD.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHAT RESPONSE
EMBASSY CAN MAKE TO DEMARCHE MADE BY MFA. AS NOTED IN
REF A, LOT DID NOT HAVE SCHEDULED SERVICE TO THE US IN
1972 AND THUS DOES NOT HAVE BASE LEVEL OF US JET FUEL
CONSUMPTION FOR THAT PERIOD.
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